

# Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen

Quarterly Updates: Q3 | July - September 2020



IOM provided water for migrants returning from Yemen in Obock region, Djibouti. | Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM 2020

**19,374**

Migrants entered to Djibouti and Somalia

**1,938**

Migrants returning to Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**235,000**

Vulnerable migrants in need of life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance in 2020

**31,015**

Migrants reached through the support provided by MRP partners in July - September

## Situation overview

In 2020, COVID-19 brought new challenges and risks for migrants travelling on the Eastern Route, the busiest pathway in the East and Horn of Africa. The pandemic prompted governments to impose stringent border closures, together with movement restrictions and stricter security measures along known migratory routes, making the already dangerous and difficult journeys even more perilous. However, in July 2020, the Regional Migrants Response Plan (RMRP) target countries began to ease the movement restrictions that were in place. Although the lifting of movement restrictions has triggered a broader operational reach, the incidence of the COVID-19 virus has led to negative impacts such as reduced economic opportunities and increased vulnerability to humanitarian hardships and protection risks. In Yemen, COVID-19 movement restrictions were still in place at the end of September 2020.

Regardless of the reduced migrant flows in the East and Horn of Africa and Yemen, migrants remain vulnerable and face substantial protection risks and human rights violations. Migrants within Yemen continue to face the threat of arrest, detention, gender-based violence and forced transfers by the authorities.

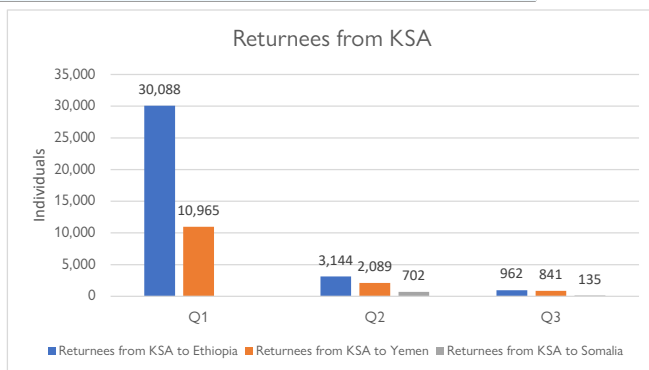
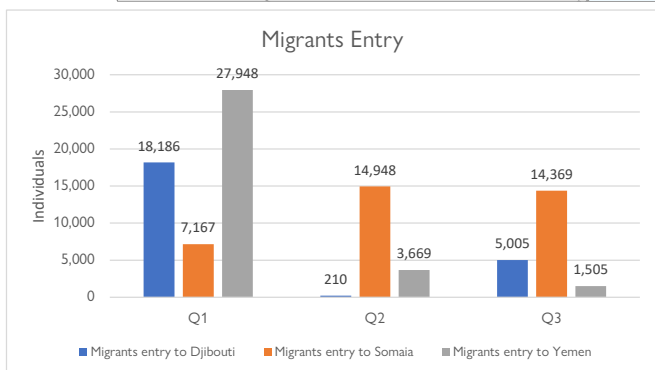
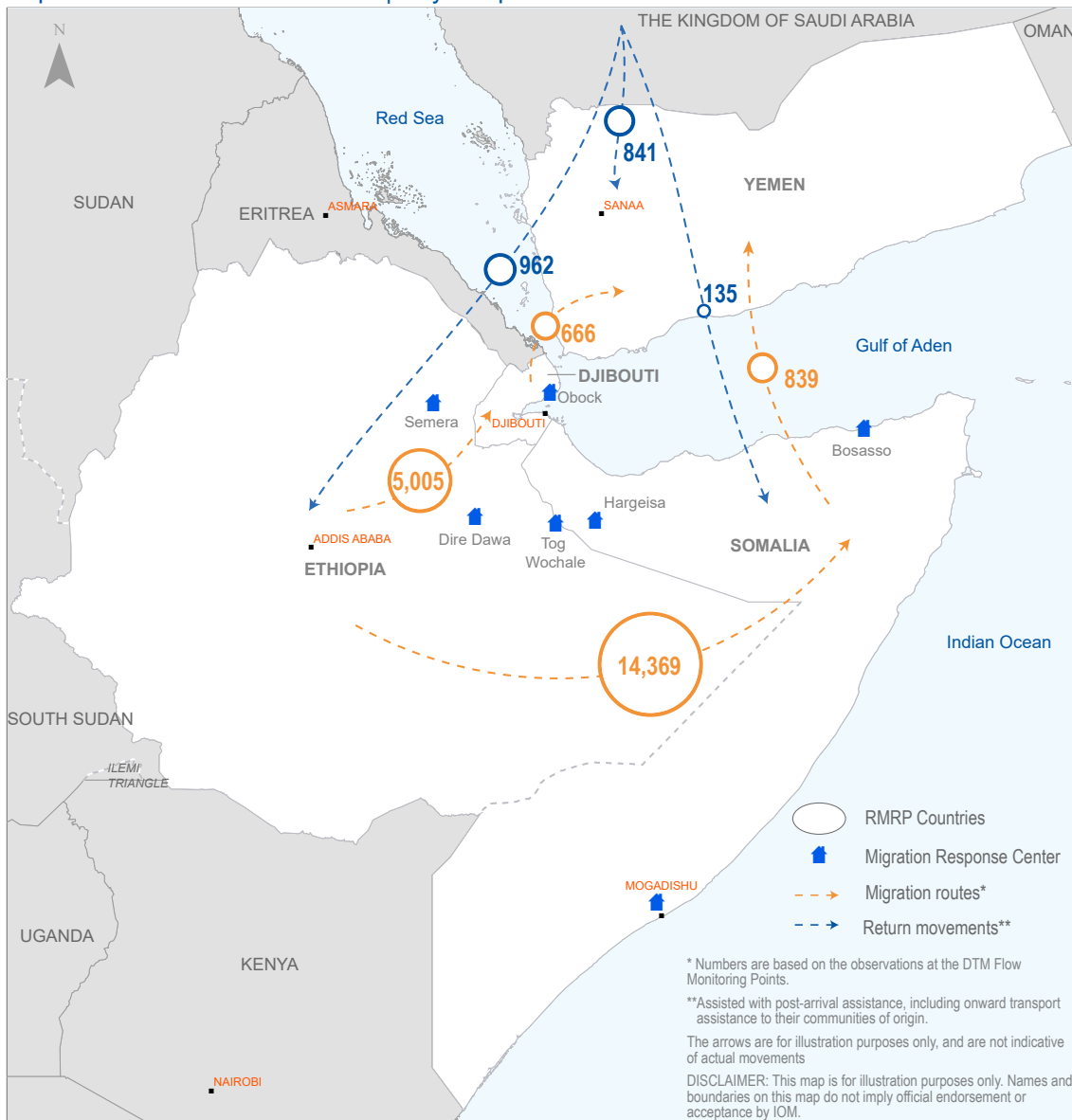
Since March 2020, over 4,100 migrants have been forcibly transferred across active frontlines or abandoned in secluded areas, with others falling into the hands of smugglers. During the reporting period, it is notable that over 4,000 migrants are in some form of verifiable detention facility. However, accurate monitoring in detention is not available. These detention facilities do not meet the minimum standards for human habitation and lack essential services and assistance. In response, MRP partners continue to advocate against discriminatory policies and human rights abuses against migrants, including forced transfers and the instrumentalization of COVID-19 to detain migrants under inhumane conditions.

The widespread xenophobic and discriminatory narrative that depicts migrants as carriers of COVID-19 creates tensions between the migrants and host communities and limits their access to essential services, particularly health care, which is a critical service at this point. The increasingly hostile environment for migrants led to an increase in the number of migrants expressing the desire to return to their countries of origin between July and September 2020. As such, 2,768 migrants,

the majority of whom are Ethiopians, made their way back to the Horn of Africa via Djibouti, travelling on barely sea-worthy boats, sometimes forced to swim to reach the Djiboutian shores and walking through the Djiboutian desert to reach the Ethiopia border. This return journey is just as dangerous as their original movement to Yemen. During the reporting period, a total of 26 (2 females and 24 males) migrants, all Ethiopians, were reported missing or deceased following their return journey through Djibouti. Most of them (14) drowned or were lost at sea near Guehere, in Djibouti, when they were forced by smugglers to jump off the boat before reaching the shore. An IOM medical team in Djibouti recovered ten other bodies of migrants in the desert area who had died due to dehydration.

As a country of origin, transit, and destination, Somalia receives migrants from neighboring countries, primarily Ethiopia. At the end of September, an estimated 900 migrants were stranded in Bossaso due to increased restrictions on border and sea-crossings resulting from the pandemic. Migrants seeking assistance at Migrant Response Centres (MRCs) in Somalia have reported that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their capacity to provide for their basic needs. Despite the risks and dangers ahead, such challenges might represent an additional push factor for outbound migration along the Eastern Route towards Gulf Countries. During the reporting period, one migrant reportedly died due to dehydration in the desert area between Jidhi and Lowya'ado.

### Population Movements Overview | July - September 2020



## Achievements from July to September 2020

### Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

#### Key achievements through Migration Response Centers



To effectively address the needs of migrants on the move during the period under review, partners adapted their services to the COVID-19 situation. Through the Migration Response Centers (MRC)<sup>1</sup>, MRP partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen identified 31,015 migrants (6,730 females and 24,285 males) in need of humanitarian assistance<sup>2</sup>. The migrants who were registered for various forms of assistance included 2,412 (402 females and 2,010 males) in Djibouti; 12,636 (4,830 females and 7,806 males) in Ethiopia, 919 in Somalia (396 females and 523 males), and 15,048 (1,102 females and 13,946 males) in Yemen. Of the 31,015 migrants in need of assistance, 1,683 (535 females and 1,148 males) were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Partners supported 696 (293 females and 403 male of these) UASC with Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) in Ethiopia.

In Djibouti, MRP partners continue to provide essential life-saving assistance and services, including psychosocial and medical support at the MRCs. In the context of COVID-19 prevention, the MRCs reduced the scale of operation to the admission of only the most vulnerable cases, namely women, children, and sick migrants. Additionally, six UASC have been hosted by CARITAS Djibouti since May 2020. IOM Ethiopia is coordinating closely with the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to facilitate the return of the UASC to Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, despite the reopening of the country's borders, Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) and Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) services remained on hold in line with COVID-19

containment measures imposed by the government since March. No migrant was returned to Ethiopia through the VHR during the reporting period. However, 8,470 (2,539 females and 5,931 males) migrants spontaneously returned to Ethiopia from Djibouti (4,328), Somalia (3,380) and 762 returned from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar. Despite reduced operations at the MRCs due to the pandemic, MRP partners<sup>3</sup> continued to support spontaneous and forced returnees upon arrival at several Points of Entry (PoEs<sup>4</sup>).

In Somalia, the migrants registered in the MRCs continue waiting for AVR as the service is still severely restricted due to COVID-19 measures imposed by the Government of Ethiopia. Four male UASC were referred to safehouses in Puntland run by local NGOs and the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MoWDFAFA). Save the Children International (SCI) supported a vaccination campaign, reaching 8,253 children (4,294 females and 3,959 males) across various Somalia.

In Yemen, as part of the response to the enormous needs on the ground, MRP partners (IOM, DRC, and Intersos) are implementing a coordinated response to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance (food, water, relief items and counselling) through the Migrant Response Points and mobile teams. IOM has launched efforts to support an estimated 5,000 stranded migrants through a cash for work scheme aimed at ensuring that migrants are engaged in productive activities, have access to food and are able to safely wait out the period before return to their

1 Seven MRCs are currently operated by national Governments, IOM, and other partners in the EHoA and they facilitate the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations, and ensure that they receive appropriate, immediate and short-term support, including direct assistance and referrals for specialised services.

2 Depending on the MRP country, the direct assistance includes Non-Food Items (NFIs), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) NFIs, medical screening, and personal protective equipment (PPE) psychosocial support (PSS), FTR and referral of UASC to relevant protection services in the MRCs, MRPs, mobile outreach activities, community centres and quarantine facilities across PoEs on the Eastern route.

3 IOM, Save the Children (SCI) and the Danish Red Cross

4 The POEs included Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa and quarantine centres designated for returnees in the capital and regional states (namely Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Dire Dawa).



countries of origin. With most stranded migrants being Ethiopian, IOM continues to advocate at the regional level for the VHR programme's resumption as an immediate life-saving measure. In preparation for the recommencement of the VHR, IOM Yemen

and Ethiopia have been working together on negotiations with the Ethiopian government and an agreement to process and return at least 2,000 migrants before the end of 2020.

### Mobility Flows along the Eastern Route

As a consequence of COVID-19, between July and September 2020, migrant arrivals in Yemen remained extremely low. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded approximately 1,500 arrivals compared to nearly 23,400 during the same period in 2019. The 1,500 (15% females, 75% males, and 10% children) arrivals came from Djibouti (839) and Somalia (666). During the reporting period, the arrivals represented a 94 percent drop from the same period in 2019 and a 59 percent drop from the second quarter of 2020. Most migrant arrivals into Yemen were Ethiopian nationals (83%), while the remainder were Somali

nationals (17%). DTM tracked 848 Yemenis returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between July and September 2020, an almost 91% drop from the same months in 2019 and a 64% fall from the second quarter of 2020.

Furthermore, thousands of migrants reportedly remain stranded at the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A new trend emerging is Ethiopian nationals' travel to Somalia via Djibouti, where DTM enumerators tracked 1,468 migrants upon arrival in Somalia between July and September. These movements make up 10% of all migrants tracked entering Somalia.



Migrants at MRC Obock, Djibouti | Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM 2020

## Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization

6

returnees (1 female and 5 male) assisted with AVR from Mogadishu to Addis Ababa

1,649

migrants (260 male and 1,389 female) assisted with transportation assistance to final destination

421

returnees (90 female and 331 male) completed reintegration assistance after the return

750

returnees (397 female and 353 male) and at-risk children were assisted and accessed formal or alternative education services

33,005

individuals (4,820 females and 3,746 males of which 2,486 were children) participated in awareness campaigns on risks linked to unsafe migration

4

community development projects (2 in Somalia, 2 in Ethiopia) started in communities of high returns



Ethiopian migrants stranded in dire conditions in Lahj | Photo credit: Ibrahim IOM 2020

MRP partners continue to adapt their programmes to respond to emerging issues with a long-term durable solution focus, ensuring more substantial social inclusion, protection, and reintegration for migrants and returnees. In Ethiopia, partners reached out to 516 (219 female and 297 male) beneficiaries with socio-economic empowerment during the same period. MRP partners, IOM, and SCI cooperated with Jimma University to incept two community-based (CB) reintegration projects in Oromia and Amhara regional states, directly reaching 315 beneficiaries and an estimated 1,228 indirect beneficiaries. In Oromia Regional State, the project will contribute to the reduction of unemployment and irregular migration through the creation of jobs for potential migrants and migrant returnees from the Gibe fish farming initiative. In Amhara Regional State, SCI will work in four woredas of the North Wollo Zones of Ethiopia to provide 65 returnee children with community-based entrepreneurial, financial skills training and psychosocial support to enhance their resilience and socio-economic reintegration.

In Somalia, IOM initiated two community-based development projects based on priorities identified in the community action plan drafted in consultation with local authorities and selected community members in December 2019. The projects will

support the development of durable and sustainable reintegration approaches.

- The 'Support the climate adaptive community-based reintegration of returnees and communities of return in Burao' project is in the form of an implementing partner agreement between IOM and Somaliland based Non-governmental organization (NGO), Candlelight. The project will improve livestock herders and farmers' productive capacity, reduce soil erosion and increase arable land through contour ploughing.
- IOM adapted the second project to respond to the critical gaps in the COVID-19 mitigation identified in Bossaso where no humanitarian intervention is yet to be implemented. The project provided 14 handwashing facilities and the construction of latrines to benefit both stranded migrants and host communities.
- MRP partners also donated personal protective equipment and water coolers for migrants, returnees and other vulnerable groups within the MRCs and Ethiopian host communities.



## Awareness campaigns on the risk of irregular migration conducted and evaluated in identified hot spot areas



Awareness raising campaigns on the risk of irregular migration conducted in identified hotspots | Photo credit: DRC Yemen 2020

In Djibouti, IOM collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to conduct an Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) awareness-raising campaign from the 1st to the 3rd of July 2020. The team reached 9,142 migrants and host community members in Bahache through door-to-door interaction and megaphone loudspeakers. The MOH placed fifteen handwashing stations in the neighbourhood's busiest areas. The MOH officials also disinfected local marketplaces.

In Ethiopia, SCI reached 8,566 individuals, including children, the youth, parents, and caregivers, with risk awareness messages on irregular migration.

In Somalia, partners reached out to 970 beneficiaries (282 female and 688 male) through 12 awareness-raising campaigns on COVID-19 IPC and information on the services available at the MRCs. The campaigns were conducted at the MRCs, Ethiopian

Community Centers (ECCs), and through outreach and mobile patrols.

During the reporting period, DTM enumerators interviewed migrant groups to gauge their level of awareness of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a gradual increase in the percentage of migrants who indicated that they were aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, from 53% in July, 55% in August, to 56% in September. Furthermore, in September, partners reached 14,404 (60% females and 40% males) individuals through weekly community hygiene promotion activities in target areas of high migrant return around Bossaso.

In Yemen, 14,327 migrants received awareness-raising messaging on safe migration and COVID-19 IPC from IOM, DRC and INTERSOS.



IOM's mobile unit assisted migrants returning from Yemen in the Obock region, Djibouti. Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM 2020

## Objective 3: To strengthen the protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.



Handover of the Mogadishu MRC to the Benadir Regional Administration | Photo credit: IOM Somalia 2020

A vital component of the MRP is providing technical and material support to governments in the target countries. The support includes providing equipment, improving access to technology for more coordinated migration management processes and protocols, building existing migration management capacities and strengthening their ability to protect vulnerable migrants.

The partners in Djibouti conducted the following trainings;

- 18 officials (one female and 17 males) Immigration, Customs and the National Army participated in the first training to build front-line workers' capacity to prepare for and respond to border crises (notably COVID-19) and improve operational coordination between departments.
- The second training targeted 87 (9 females and 78 males) front-line workers on IPC measures and the integration of the principles of International Health Regulations (IHR) in disease surveillance and epidemic potential at the POEs.

In Ethiopia, the following capacity building initiatives were conducted by partners during the reporting period;

- MRP partners (IOM, SCI, DRC and Hundee Oromee) trained a total of 860 (267 female and 593 male) protection stakeholders on responding to the protection concerns of migrants and returnee children in COVID-19 settings.
- IOM supported several key government agencies with migration management mandates<sup>5</sup> with technical (trainings) and material support (ICT equipment) to strengthen the protection of migrants in Ethiopia.
- The newly established NCM was also supported by partners to develop its first work plan for the 2013 Ethiopian year.
- MRP partners contributed to developing the directives operationalizing the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants.

- In Somalia, partners conducted several capacity building initiatives as outlined below;
- IOM facilitated a training to improve the surge capacity for a medical team of eight (4 females and 4 males) to identify the protection needs of migrants and provide tailored assistance, including psychosocial support. IOM will roll out further training in Hargeisa and Bossaso to deploy additional personnel in the last quarter of the year.
- MIDAS equipment was installed at the Dhobley, Dollow, and Kismayo borders, followed by a MIDAS on-the-spot training for 12 Immigration Officers (2 females and 10 males). The equipment and trainings will enable Immigration officers to verify travellers' biometric data, analyze and share relevant data with other government agencies or partners.
- IOM handed over the newly established MRC in Mogadishu to the Benadir Regional Administration on the 13th of September. The overall purpose of the MRC is to serve as a one-stop point for vulnerable returnees and stranded migrants, including victims of trafficking in need of information and protection related services. The MRC will also play a role in promoting the sustainable reintegration of Somali returnees.
- Concerning the operationalization of the MRC, protection stakeholders held consultations to analyze the landscape of the services currently available to vulnerable returnees and stranded migrants in Mogadishu. 19 (7 females and 12 males) participants from the MRP partners<sup>6</sup> validated the stakeholder consultations' findings. The partners recommended developing comprehensive SOPs to outline the roles of the different actors involved in service provision to vulnerable migrants. The collaboration between UNIDO, the Ministry of Commerce and Industries and the Somali Chamber of Commerce, which

<sup>5</sup> The National Coordination Mechanism (NCM), the Central Statistics Agency, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, the Department of Immigration, and Nationality Affairs (IND)

<sup>6</sup> UNIDO, UNHCR, UNODC, and government counterparts such as MoLSA, OSE and BRA



offers entrepreneurship support, access to funding and business development at the MRCs, was cited as a best practice.

- IOM provided material support to the Immigration Department to refurbish an interview room to provide a safer and more secure environment for secondary interviews conducted with forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other countries. Following a joint needs assessment carried out by IOM and the Office of the Special Envoy, IOM donated COVID-19 IPC materials to the Almond Centre and the De Martino Hospital.

- On the 14th of September, a ceremonial launch of the Somaliland “Framework Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) “ was held in Hargeisa to mark the official endorsement and operationalization of the SOPs. The partners developed the SOPs through a consultative process that started in April 2019 and involved government, UN Agencies such as UNICEF and NGOs. The SOPs were contextualized on global AVR standards to guide assistance provision in both inbound and outbound movements.



Migrants stranded in Aden city congregate in the shade of a building under construction near the IOM Migrant Response Point | Photo credit: IOM 2020



## Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of drivers of migration needs and trends between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.



Humanitarian Border Management and COVID-19 training participants. | Photo credit: IOM 2020

The onset of COVID-19 necessitated increased coordination to respond to the related health challenges and the fast-evolving situation. During the reporting period, IOM released 22

reports (Djibouti (3), Somalia (16) and Yemen (3)) through the Displacement Tracking Matrix Flow Monitoring Points.

### Surveys/Assessments/Research

In Djibouti,

- on the 15th and 16th of July, IOM organized a training for 25 (3 females and 22 males) DTM agents to build the agents' capacities to collect migration and protection data, refer COVID-19 cases to the closest health post, and raise awareness on COVID-19 IPC.
- Between the 13th and 24th August, IOM Djibouti organized focus group discussions (FGDs) at the Masagara site near Obock to better understand the experiences endured during the journey and the most pressing needs of migrant arrivals from Yemen. Seventy-two (15 females and 57 males) Ethiopian migrants participated in the FGDs. Most migrants reported having suffered from hunger and thirst during their journey and stay in Yemen, with some reporting that they had been detained and suffered physical abuse<sup>7</sup>. Approximately 83% of all migrants tracked through Djibouti reported being aware of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Ethiopia,

- MRP partners, including UN agencies (IOM, WHO, WFP, OCHA) and NGO partners, supported the Government of Ethiopia to conduct a series of three COVID-19 multi-sectoral assessments at the borders in Galafi, Dewele, Togwajale. The assessments examined the capacity of quarantine facilities and Border Crossing Points (BCPs) to carry out health screening and COVID-19 related IPC. Partners made recommendations to the Department of Immigration, and Nationality Affairs (IND) to upgrade the

infrastructure, improve the IPC processes and strengthen inter-agency coordination.

- SCI is finalizing a set of studies on the movement of unaccompanied children through the Eastern route.
- IOM is concluding a research report entitled: "They Snatched From Me My Own Cry", the interplay of social norms and stigma concerning human trafficking in Jimma and Arsi Zones of Ethiopia, 2020."The findings from the report will be shared in the next quarter.

In Somalia,

- IOM rolled out a KoBo survey to enhance the profiling of migrants returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The KoBo tools include indicators on the level of education and skills of migrants that could inform future reintegration programmes and trafficking flashpoints, such as unethical recruitment and forced labour. The report will be finalized and shared in the next reporting period.
- In September, IOM Somalia conducted a survey targeting stranded migrants (10 females and 6 males) at the MRCs in Hargeisa and Bossaso. The survey aimed to establish critical assistance and protection gaps to inform an evidence-based response to Ethiopian migrants' tailored assistance. Findings from the survey will be shared in the next reporting period.

In Yemen,

- Through a collaboration with Meraki Lab consultancy,

<sup>7</sup> Report available @ [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FGD%20Report-MigrantsFromYemen\\_EN\\_FINAL%5B5782%5D.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FGD%20Report-MigrantsFromYemen_EN_FINAL%5B5782%5D.pdf)

partners have produced three monthly internal migrant protection reports in Yemen. The reports provide a regular overview of migration trends in the country, including primary protection risks that migrants face

and the assistance needed to bolster existing support programmes. The information included in these reports feeds into the IOM quarterly migration snapshot - see IOM Q3 Migration Report<sup>8</sup> [here](#).

## **‘The desire to thrive regardless of the risk: Risk perception, expectations and migration experiences of young Ethiopians migrating along the Eastern Route towards the Arabian Peninsula, Migrant Category: Bossaso, Puntland (August 2020)’<sup>9</sup>**

In 2019, the IOM Regional Data Hub (RDH) for the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) launched a multi-stage research project to understand better the experiences, decision-making, perceptions, and expectations of young Ethiopians along the Eastern Route. A more nuanced understanding of the migrants’ decision to migrate will help inform strategy and programmatic planning for MRP partners and other humanitarian and development actors in the region. Obock, Djibouti, and Bossaso, Puntland, were selected as the primary study sites - both being gateways to Yemen. They receive many Ethiopian migrants travelling on the Eastern Route. While the research is still underway, the detailed findings from the first report on the quantitative and qualitative surveys conducted in Obock, Djibouti, can be accessed [here](#). The second publication of the project conducted in Bossaso, Puntland, in March and April 2020 can be accessed [here](#). A series of thematic briefing papers and the main report detailing the qualitative and quantitative research findings from Obock, Djibouti, will be published in the last quarter of the year.

### **Coordination**

In Djibouti, MRP partners held one Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF)<sup>10</sup> meeting to discuss various migration management issues.

In Ethiopia, during the reporting period, the UN Network on Migration (UNMN) referenced the MRP to keep the response plan on the UN agencies’ agenda. The UNMNE was briefed by MRP partners on the development of the next phase of the MRP 2021 to 2024, and non-member agencies were sensitized on the existence of the plan and what it seeks to achieve.

In Somalia, partners conducted three coordination meetings through the MMTF in Hargeisa (1) and Mogadishu (2);

- The first meeting of the MMTF<sup>11</sup> was held in July and chaired by the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE). Representatives from the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and other MRP partners participated in the consultations to review and endorse the Terms of Reference (ToR) to establish the Return and Readmission task force.
- 27 participants (8 females and 19 males) attended the second meeting held on the 13th of August. IOM and the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) collaborated on the presentations of the ongoing data collection work and the 4Mi<sup>12</sup> initiative, which collects information through a network of field monitors along main migration routes and

Key Findings:

- Ethiopians who frequently travel to the Middle East as migrants seem to enjoy slightly better economic conditions in their communities of origin after returning than before their first migration.
- Of the surveyed re-migrating individuals who reported having an income in Ethiopia between journeys, the average income almost doubled (from 1,817 to 3,248 Birr per month) indicating that they may have increased their capital following time spent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Re-migrating individuals reported that their income between journeys came from ‘savings, business or trade’ and ‘farming.’ This indicates that some returnees seem to have been able to utilize remittances to improve self-sufficiency.

directly from migrants on the move. The MMTF members adopted four pillars of response (communication, legislation, counter-trafficking, research and data) to mixed migration issues to guide the task force’s work. In Hargeisa, on 25-26 August, to reactivate the MMTF in Somaliland, 27 participants (4 females and 23 males) validated the MMTF ToT and the four pillars of response, committed to meet bi-monthly and to develop a 6-month work plan.

- Furthermore, IOM and UNICEF developed a work plan for Somaliland, Benadir Regional Administration and Puntland regions to address the upward trend in numbers of UASCs identified along the Eastern Route. The activities include capacity building activities to front-line officials on child protection safeguards, capacity assessments of the MRCs and the development of cross-border SOPs on child protection.
- On the 9th of September, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was finalized between IOM and the OSE, outlining the two actors’ roles and responsibilities in managing the migration flow to and from Somalia.

In Yemen, the MRP partners conducted three meetings to ensure regular coordination at the strategic and operational levels through the Refugees and Migrants Multi-Sector working group and the Mixed Migration Working Group platforms.

8 <https://www.iom.int/sitreps/yemen-quarterly-migration-overview-july-september-2020>

9 <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/desire-thrive-regardless-risk-risk-perception-expectations-and-migration-experiences>

10 The Mixed Migration Task Force, an existing structure in Djibouti and Somalia, which is composed of relevant government authorities, the UN, and relevant NGO-partners, serves as the coordination and information-sharing platform for the RMRP. In Yemen, the Multisector for Refugees and Migrants Cluster takes on this role.

11 The first meeting of the MMTF in 2020 was held in July. MMTF is chaired by the OSE and co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR

12 4Mi is the Mixed Migration Monitoring Initiative used by UNHCR and the Mixed Migration Centre to collect information directly from migrants and refugees on the move.



## Regional Coordination meetings

During the reporting period, two major events took place at the Regional level;

Launch of the 2020 MRP appeal: Partners launched the MRP 2020 appeal on the 5th of August 2020. Eighty partners attended the launch, including member states representatives at ministerial levels from Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, and several donors. Calls

were made to donors, operational and coordination partners, civil society, and media to support the migrants' situations through funding and drawing attention to the migrants' dire conditions along the route.

Establishment of the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC): The RCC for technical focal points was established on the 17th of September and will be a conduit to operationalize the strategic directions agreed upon by the Regional Directors of the RMRP.

## Predictions for the next reporting period

Despite the easing of restrictions on travel and public gatherings, the impact of COVID-19 will continue to affect everyday activities in the MRP countries. MRP partners will adapt to the changing context and provide support where it is most needed.

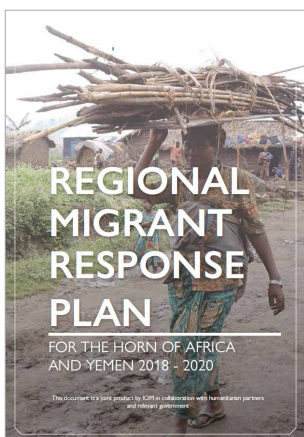
IOM Yemen is coordinating with the Government of Ethiopia regarding the possible resumption of VHR charter flights for undocumented Ethiopians from Aden.

## About the RMRP

The Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2018-2020 is a three-year, migrant-focused humanitarian and development strategy targeting vulnerable migrants moving to and from the Horn of Africa and Yemen. The RMRP provides a framework for coordination, protection, capacity building, analysis, and resource mobilization, recognizing the migration's regional dimensions linking the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

collaboration at the regional and country levels to set strategic objectives, determine yearly operational priorities and budgets, support country offices in implementation through capacity building and technical support, and identify challenges and trends that inform partners' responses.

The RMRP is led by IOM's Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi. RMRP partners include intergovernmental and non-governmental actors working in close



[Download](#) the three-year Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2018-2020



[Download](#) the Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen RMRP 2020 appeal



[Download](#) the previous RMRP Mid-Year Update | January - June 2020

## RMRP Partners



**ASDEPO**



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